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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/020,893 | 12/19/2001 | Lawrence N. Dagate | RIC-01-026 | 8775 |

25537 7590 08/11/2003
WORLDCOM, INC.
TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT
1133 19TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

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| EXAMINER |
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LAIR, DONALD M

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2858

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/020,893 | DAGATE, LAWRENCE N. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Donald M. Lair | 2858 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3 – 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crouse et al. (US-5,997,311).

3. In regards to Claim 1, Crouse et al. discloses a panel comprising a first side, including at least one first connector configured to connect to electrical equipment and receive a plurality of signals from the electrical equipment (Column 3, lines 46 – 67; Fig. 4, elements 38 and 40), and a plurality of second connectors respectively configured to connect to a plurality of network devices and deliver the plurality of signals to the plurality of network devices (Fig. 4, element 20), and a second side opposite from the first side (Column 2, lines 34 – 38), including a plurality of third connectors respectively coupled to at least one of the at least one first connector and the plurality of second connectors and configured to provide temporary connection to at least one of the electrical equipment and the plurality of network devices (Column 3, lines 33 – 35; Fig. 5, elements 34, 36, and 52).

4. In regards to Claim 3, Crouse et al. discloses a panel comprising the elements described above, wherein the at least one first connector includes an integrated connector having a number of contact points therein (Fig. 4, elements 38 and 40).

5. In regards to Claim 4, Crouse et al. discloses a panel comprising the elements described above, wherein the at least one first connector is electrically connected to the plurality of second connectors to deliver the plurality of signals from the electrical equipment to the plurality of network devices (Fig. 4, element 20).

6. In regards to Claim 5, Crouse et al. discloses a panel comprising the elements described above, wherein the plurality of third connectors includes a plurality of fourth connectors electrically connected to the at least one first connector and configured to provide temporary connections from the electrical equipment (Fig. 5, elements 54 and 56).

7. In regards to Claim 6, Crouse et al. discloses a panel comprising the elements described above, further including a plurality of fifth connectors electrically connected to the plurality of second connectors and configured to provide temporary connections to the plurality of network devices from the plurality of fourth connectors (Column 3, lines 1 – 16 and 33 – 45; Fig. 2, element 20).

8. In regards to Claim 8, Crouse et al. disclose a panel comprising the elements described above, wherein the at least one first connector and the plurality of second connectors each includes a primary group of connectors and a secondary group of connectors for connecting primary and secondary groups of signals between the electrical equipment and the plurality of network devices (Column 3, lines 46 – 67; Fig. 4, elements 20, 38, and 40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 2, 7, and 9 – 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crouse et al. in view of Jacobson et al. (US-6,453,014).

11. In regards to Claims 9, 11, 17, 19, 20, and 21, Crouse et al. disclose a panel comprising the elements described above, but fail to disclose a plurality of equipment jacks corresponding to and electrically connected to the plurality of network connectors, the equipment jacks facilitating temporary connection of cables for testing or patching signals to the network elements, or a plurality of timing jacks corresponding to and electrically connected to at least one timing connector, the timing jacks facilitating temporary connection of cables for testing the synchronization electronics or patching to the equipment jacks. Jacobson et al. disclose testing and cross connecting communication transmission lines (Column 3, lines 42 – 45) including equipment jacks facilitating temporary connection of cables for testing or patching signals from the network elements (Column 3, lines 55 – 67; Figs. 1 and 2, element 10) and timing jacks facilitating temporary connection of cables for testing synchronization electronics or patching to the equipment jacks (Column 3, lines 55 – 67; Figs. 1 and 2, element 10), wherein the timing connector includes a unitary connector having multiple pins corresponding to a number of signals from the synchronization electronics (Column 10, line 66 – Column 11, line 9; Figs. 1 and 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the panel disclosed by Crouse et al. to include equipment and timing jacks as disclosed by Jacobson et al. for the purpose of providing cross connect and patch connections to multiple sites.

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12. In regards to Claims 7, 12, 16, and 18, Crouse et al. disclose a plurality of sixth connectors electrically connected to the plurality of second connectors via a respective plurality of resistors (Column 3, lines 1 – 17; Fig. 2, element 20) but fail to disclose providing high impedance connections to the plurality of network devices. Jacobson et al. disclose providing a high impedance connection to the plurality of network devices wherein a plurality of monitor jacks are electrically connected to the plurality of equipment jacks by a respective plurality of resistors, and wherein the timing and monitor jacks include an identical type of connector (Column 9, lines 29 – 30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a high impedance connection as taught by Jacobson et al. into Crouse et al. for the purpose of allowing nonintrusive monitoring of the communications line.

13. In regards to Claim 13, 14, and 15, Crouse et al. does not disclose a secondary group of network/timing/equipment connectors that are spatially separated. Jacobson et al. disclose a primary and secondary group of network/timing/equipment connectors that are spatially separated from the primary group of network/timing/equipment connectors (Fig. 5B, elements 115 and 144). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the panel disclosed by Crouse et al. by including a secondary group of connectors spatially separated from the primary connectors for the purpose of facilitating the testing of the panel.

14. In regards to Claims 2 and 10, Crouse et al. does not disclose wire wrap pins. Jacobson et al. disclose that it is well known in the art to use wire wrap connections for panel connections (Column 1, lines 49 – 60). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to include wire wrap pins as taught by Jacobson et al. into Crouse et al. for the purpose of providing an individually coupled connection suitable for panel testing.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments, see Amendment A, filed 06/26/03, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 – 8 under 102(b) and claims 9 – 21 under 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Crouse et al. and Jacobson et al.

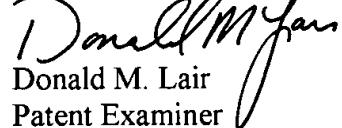
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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald M. Lair whose telephone number is (703) 305-4450. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, N. Le can be reached on (703) 308-0750. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1436.



Donald M. Lair
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2858
August 6, 2003



N. Le
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800